Buckley Elementary School

Bobcat News

A Great Place to Grow and Explore

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Principal's Corner

October 1, 2013



As I write this letter, I cannot believe that September is quickly coming to a close. Fall is here and there is a chill in the air! September has been very busy here at Buckley School. As a brief overview, we have:

• Taught our **PBIS** expectations! We had some help from our Buckley Student Ambassadors. These 5th grade ambassadors were identified by their classroom teachers last spring

and they have assisted us in reteaching expectations, assisted at Open House and assist with showing our new students around Buckley.

- Created a new bulletin board across from the main office that will highlight our students! Please make sure that you visit this bulletin board each time you are at school.
- Installed 2 new Smartboards into our classrooms that our PTA purchased.
- PTA sponsored their back to school cook out that was a huge success!

These are just a few of the happenings at Buckley! As many of you know, students received their Connecticut Mastery Test (**CMT**) results recently. Once again, it is a pleasure sharing these results with you. After analyzing the data of our scores, I can confidently share with you that Buckley students performed extremely well. I shared the results with the staff at our August Professional Development day. I would like to take this time to congratulate our students for an outstanding job on the **CMTs**. It is evident that you worked very hard! I would also like to congratulate our teachers and staff (grades K-5) for all their work on preparing our students. Their dedication and commitment truly shines on a daily basis. I would also like to thank the parents/guardians and our volunteers who assist our students. This was truly a group effort. In fact, Buckley is a professional learning community that is built on collaboration for all our students. Below is a detailed outline of how our students performed. Please note that these scores are listed as students scoring at/above proficient level. Also, science is only tested in grades 5 and 8.

Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042

Phone: (860)647-3302 Fax: (860)647-5007 Illness: (860)647-3344 Nurse: (860)647-3303 Page 2 Bobcat News

Grade 3 Scores

- Math scored 92.5% at/above proficient.
- Reading scored 76.9% at/above proficient.
- Writing scored 88.5% at/above proficient.

Grade 4 Scores

- Math scored 89.7% at/above proficient.
- Reading scored 94.3% at/above proficient.
- Writing scored 78% at/above proficient.

Grade 5 Scores

- Math scored 96.9% at/above proficient.
- Reading scored 83.9% at/above proficient.
- Writing scored 82.4% at/above proficient.
- Science scored 85.3% at/above proficient.

These are outstanding scores and we should all be very proud! Buckley School is truly **a great place to grow and explore**! I will be discussing these scores at the October 9th **PTA** meeting.

We continue to be busy at school. Listed below are a few important dates that will occur at Buckley during the month of October.

- October 16th 1:17 early dismissal!
- October 18th **PTA** sponsored Book Bingo @ Buckley!
- October 19th Cross Country Challenge!
- October 2nd Picture Day!
- October 9th PTA meeting

We hope to see everyone at these above events!

As a friendly reminder, I am asking that any parent/guardian or visitor sign in at the main office before visiting a classroom. Please understand that this is our protocol and this is for the safety of all in our building. Please do not report directly to a classroom. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

As many of you are aware, the month of October is Bully Prevention month. At Buckley School, we do not tolerate bullying/mean behavior. This school year, Buckley School will align our school climate goal of increasing positive student recognition. We will focus on recognizing our students and continuing to foster a school climate of positive behavior.

As a friendly reminder, Buckley School conducts monthly emergency drills as part of our school practice. Please know that we conduct these monthly and our students fully understand that these are part of our routine.

In addition, I would like to make you aware of three notices in this newsletter. First, please make sure you read the letter regarding our district enrichment program and some slight changes to it. Second, I encourage you to read my letter specific to dropping off and picking up at Buckley School. Lastly, I have also attached a letter regarding interventions that occur at Buckley. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lastly, we are continuing to make every effort of emailing this monthly newsletter. We are working closely with our central office in order to build a data base so as to email this to you. There has been a delay as we continue to learn Infosnap. If you have a new email address, a change of address or a new phone number, please notify your classroom teacher or our main office so we can correct it. Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-647-3302,.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Kindergarten

Our first month of school was fantastic! All the students learned how to be safe, respectful and responsible in the classroom, hallway and cafeteria. Everyone enjoyed sharing their all about me t-shirts and getting to know their classmates. It was a lot of fun listening to and reciting familiar nursery rhymes and practicing new ones too. The students loved showing off their classroom at open house. They are all so proud and excited to be in Kindergarten at Buckley School. Our field trip to Rose's Berry Farm will be Friday, October 18th. It is sure to be fun-filled! This month we will be focusing on center routines, letter identification and formation, numbers to 10, fall, pumpkins and fire safety. Please continue to practice writing your child's name with only the first letter being uppercase. Thank you for all your support in helping your child get off to a great start!

As many of you know, we have a new kindergarten teacher for our new kindergarten class. Please welcome Ms. Lavallee to Buckley!

Thank you,

Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Budman and Ms. Lavallee

First Grade

Dear Families,

We are off to a wonderful start in first grade! It was delightful to meet so many family members during our open house. Thank you to all for taking the time to join us.

We have been reviewing lots of Kindergarten skills and now we are working on first grade curriculum. You should be helping your child to read the word cards we are sending home. Also, please encourage your child to read to you each night. It is so important in first grade to have your child practice the skills we are learning in school. We are so excited to begin learning our math facts and new math concepts. Look for concepts we are teaching in the homework we are sending home.

We are looking forward to a wonderful partnership with you. Thank you for all your help and support!

Thank you, Ms. Seaha and Ms. Bourcier

Second Grade

It's official...summer is officially over! Second graders welcome Fall with many new literacy activities! We have been modeling and practicing What Makes a Good Reader: Before, During, and After Reading Strategies! We have been reviewing how to retell stories and sharing our thoughts and ideas with one another in small groups and pairs! We love to learn from each other...not only our teachers!

We are going to begin working and learning the expectations of our literacy centers! We have been busy on not only reading basic sight words but writing them too! These words do not follow a normal spelling pattern and should be mastered by the end of second grade. Words like said, done, been, and once are all tricky!! In writing, we are reviewing what makes a sentence: uppercase letters at the beginning, proper letter formations,

spacing, punctuation, and capitalization of proper nouns.

In math, we have been reviewing addition strategies that help make our math facts automatic! We still can use our number lines, hundreds charts, and fingers but we are moving toward mental math facts like: doubles (5+5), doubles+1 (5+6); tens partners (4+6), and adding with nine (9+4 is like 10+3). Ask your child what a "monkey in the middle" math

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strategy means? See if you can figure it out: 7+9; 2+4; 3+5, 4+6 © In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on our subtraction strategies which are always more difficult for students. We will also be working on word problem solving strategies and language to help us decide which mathematical operation to use!

We will be beginning our citizenship, mapping skills, and community service providers since the Manchester Fire Department and Police Department will be visiting our classrooms in October! We are once again looking forward to the firefighters bringing their trucks and equipment!

Our students have been a pleasure to work with as we are rewarding them daily for their good deeds! Our first Positive Behavior Rally (PBIS) will be held on October 11th!

Please remember that as the weather changes in the next few weeks, your child will need a light jacket for outside recess each day! Continue to check your child's folder each night...Have a wonderful weekend!

Fondly,

Ms. Jones, Mrs. Adinolfi, Ms. Strickland

Third Graders

It was wonderful seeing all of you at Open House! Now we are beginning our second month of school and things are going to get even more rigorous. In Reading, we are finishing up Unit One of the Common Core: Character Transformations and we will be beginning Unit Two, Nonfiction Texts. Please feel free to point out nonfiction text features (diagrams, bold words, headings, glossaries, indexes, definitions, photographs, facts...) at home in the newspaper, the news shows, magazines, on the computer, etc. If you have a student at college or at the high school, I am sure they have some awesome textbooks that they can share with our students!

In Math, we are also finishing up our Common Core Unit on Multiplication and Division. We have explored strategies such as making a table, repeated addition, making an array, making groups, making fact families,

and multiplication and division facts, to help us solve problems. We are striving to help our students take risks and we will stress this by exploring the strategy they chose rather than concentrating on the errors they made. We also make frequent reference to where they will see this math showing up in real life applications. For example, the grocery store is a treasure chest of multiplication facts, if you buy five pounds of potatoes at \$1.00 a pound, how much will you spend? If two boxes of cereal are \$6.00, how much is each box?

In Writing Workshop we are continuing to build endurance in the length of their writing. We are slowly integrating building characters, settings, and beginnings this month. Share your favorite characters that you are reading now with your child. What are the characters like? What changes do they undergo?

In Science, we are in the land of plants and animals! We are building on what we learned about animals and adding plants into our environments. We are learning how plants NEED air, water, and sunlight, but how not all plants need soil. We are learning the parts of plants and how the plant uses each part to survive. We are especially concentrating on how plants use various colors, textures, and other features to survive in different environments. What are the plants around your house? Are you planting bulbs? What kinds of changes are happening in your yard and how are the plants adapting?

Reading logs continue to go home Monday through Friday. Thank you so much for your support with this. Have a great October!

Thank you!

Mr. Sweetland Mr. Murphy Mrs. Edwards

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Fourth Grade

During the month of October fourth grade students will continue their focus on fiction. Our new curriculum calls for the children to determine the central ideas or themes of a text and to analyze their development. They are required to summarize key supporting details and ideas. The children are analyzing how and why individuals. events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text and then describing a character, setting, or event in a story or drama in depth. In writing, the children have reviewed imaginative narrative writing and are working on personal narratives. The beloved children's author Avi says, "Read, read, read. Reading is the key to good writing. The more you read, the better writer you can be. You can never read too much." Knowing that what he writes is true, we thank you for monitoring your child's very important daily independent reading at home. It is a critical part of their homework.

Math time includes lots of problem solving in addition to the computation work we do each

day. The new curriculum states, "In Grade 4. instructional time should focus on three critical areas..." the first of these areas is, "Developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends." (The other two critical areas are fractions and geometry.) As you can imagine, lots of practice with single digit fact recall has been done and now the focus is on multiple digit work. Please do not despair if your child comes home with a method for doing two digit multiplication that you are not familiar with. We will teach the standard algorithm eventually. Current teaching requires some developmental work to be done first. Perhaps your child could show you lattice or partial sums. These "new" ways of learning math skills can be fun for your child. We love to visit math websites like coolmath, multiplicaton.com, and mathplayground. Sheppardsoftware.com is another site with lots of fun fourth grade learning opportunities.

We continue to weave Native Americans, US geography, and ecosystems into our literacy and numeracy lessons as much as possible. Look for "Time for Kids" weekly homework assignments to begin the first week of October. These will be due every Friday. The varied format and content of these assignments will really help the children be prepared for the new standardized testing. As the children took the NWEA tests we were stunned by the amount of recipe, advertisements, chart, and graph reading required in the reading (not math) portion of the test. In closing, thank you for all you do to support your child's learning and please be in touch when you have questions or concerns.

Thank you, Mrs. Godbout, Ms. Marocchini and Ms. Hoke

Fifth Grade

It was so nice meeting all of you on Open House night! Thanks for making it a great success!

Our fifth graders are being challenged daily in their science, math, social studies, and language arts curriculum. Sometimes it seems as if the days aren't long enough to fit it all in! October is also National Bullying Prevention Month. At Buckley School, we are educating our students about bullying and the appropriate actions to take to produce a "Bully-Free Zone." The playground and lunchroom are often a difficult and stressful social setting for some of our students. Please have a discussion with your child about the ways they are preventing bullying at Buckley, and what they can do to make Buckley a friendly environment. As always, we strive to have our fifth graders practice being respectful, responsible, and safe at all times.

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In science, we are continuing our study of the moon, earth and sun. We have a nightly moon observation chart that needs to be filled out. If the moon is hidden, or behind cloud cover, you can have your child draw what they think the moon would look like on that day.

We are in the middle of our social studies unit on Explorations. The students are learning about the early settlements in the new world, and the influences of many different cultures and groups of people.

All fifth graders are experiencing the joys of problem solving, both with our math studies for Math Olympiads competition, and in our everyday class work. We are learning how to be divergent thinkers, to be respectful of each other's opinions, and to work cooperatively as a team towards our solutions. Don't forget those basic facts! We are still working to improve our multiplication and division. How fast can YOU answer 100 facts?

Please continue to encourage your child with the independent reading assignment. Every student should be reading novels for a period of 20-30 minutes each day, 20 pages per day, and 100 pages each week. This is part of the language arts assessment and reflects responsibility and commitment to learning. "The more you read, the more you know; the more you know, the smarter you grow. The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice, when speaking your mind or making your choice!"

Thank you, Ms. Brahm and Mrs. Jodoin

MAP News

Last month we had a great start. We enjoyed meeting new friends and staff. Our class enjoyed the first few weeks of music therapy with Mr. John. Our wonderful specialists are Ms. Chasse, speech clinician, Mrs. Vigue, occupational therapist, Ms. Tierney, physical therapist, and Ms. Ferreira, social worker.

This month we will be working on projects and activities related to our fall theme. We have added 3 new songs to our circle books. They are "Leaves, Leaves", "5 Little Leaves" and "5 Little Pumpkins". Our projects and activities will involve leaves and pumpkins. Our students will continue to work on skills at their individual level.

Thank you, Mrs. Rodowicz

Media Center

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY FOR BUCKLEY READERS!

October is children's health month

On October 14th, Winnie the Pooh celebrates his eighty-ninth birthday. A children's book character that endures and is loved for so long must be something special and Winnie-the-Pooh certainly is special. Although, A.A. Milne first introduced Pooh in his poetry collection When We Were Very Young (1924). Winnie wasn't really born until he starred in his very first book, Winnie-the Pooh, which was published on October 14, 1926. His adventures with his friends, Eeyore, Piglet, and Tigger and his protector Christopher Robin continued in two more books by A.A. Milne Now We Are Six (1927) and The House at Pooh Corner (1928). In the 1960's, Pooh and his friends were animated by Walt Disney they have since been featured in dozens of movies, videos, easy-reader books, and even have their own attractions at Disneyland and Disney World. Here's several websites where you can find the hundred-acrewoods gang online:

A website about **Winnie** the **Pooh** and his friends, with lots of fun stuff like pictures, postcards, games, free email, and more...<u>www.winnie</u>thepoohbear.net

The official website for **WINNIE** THE **POOH** featuring all-new LEARNING ABC's and 123's... disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/pooh

All about the Pooh movies, with graphics, clips, screensavers, games, sounds, links... members.iinet.net.au/~fitzac/home.htm

Thank you,

Ms. Lake

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Sensational Specials

ART

Your children continue to work hard in Art! We have been working to earn gold stars by Being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. In Kindergarten, we are practicing the routines that help us to make the most of our time and we are practicing using many of the tools that artists use such as scissors. September has been a very busy month! Students in first grade are using drawing tools to create a self-portrait from their head to their toes. We talked about how artists must put together shapes to help them to draw. Second graders are finishing up their Cool Cats. We looked at art by Laurel Burch and created our own cat portrait. Third graders are creating a large self-portrait in the style of Henri Matisse. The selfportrait will be painted with expressive colors and students will think about different colors and how they make them feel. In Fourth grade, students are finishing up a self-portrait in the style of an Italian artist Modigliani. His expressive style and elongated necks helped inspire us when we had to stretch ourselves to fit on a longer paper. Fifth graders have started painting their sunflower composition which they had to plan from their beginning sketch. The results are sure to be very impressive! We are off to a great start and it is sure to be an exciting year in the Art room!

Thank you, Mrs. Maloney, Art

P.E..

The Buckley **PE** Staff has a new addition for September and October. Ms. Dorothy Staron is a student teacher from Central Connecticut State University working

with Mr. Kolze. She is very excited to be here with the Bobcats. Ms. Staron ran Cross Country in High School and has worked summer camps and after school programs similar to MELC. Her previous experiences have prepared her well for her assignment here at Buckley. Ms. Staron enjoys line dancing, hiking, fishing and she also speaks Polish. We are fortunate to have her with us for the beginning of the school year.

Registration forms for the Cross Country Challenge have recently been sent home with your children. This is a free event for students in the Manchester Elementary Schools. If it fits into your busy schedules, we would love to see you there. It is always a very exciting day and we hope that many of you can join us.

There are many different things going on in the gym as we kick off the school year. Ms. Staron is working hard helping the students use their feet to control a soccer ball and pass safely to classmates. It is so tempting to use our hands but we are getting better at just using our feet! Our 3-5th grade students have the soccer ball under control and are moving forward to play some fun games using soccer skills.

When we are not practicing soccer skills, many of us in preK-2 are floating, galloping, skipping, jumping, running and tip-toeing to some fun music as we move safely around the gym. Being able to move safely has helped us get ready to play Rain Clouds and Sunshine. Not sure what that is??? Ask your students and they can explain it to you.

Enjoy the Fall weather and don't

forget to spend time playing outside trying to catch some falling leaves!!!

Thank you!

Mr. Kolze, Ms. Falkowski, Ms. Staron

MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

It has been wonderful to see so many people visiting the music room during Open House. It was great to hear so many stories about how students are bringing the classroom music home to perform and teach to others. Keep up the great work, everyone!

Kindergartners, 1st and 2nd graders have all been using some new musical instruments in the music classroom. We have some new drums, sand-blocks, tambourines, and egg shakers. They sound great! Which has your child had a chance to play?

The 4th and 5th graders have begun a new activity - the Mad Music Minute! (3rd graders take notice - you'll be joining them soon!) They have one minute to try and get 20 note names correct. The goal is to get more and more correct each time we try it! After, they get to relax with a short video as they record their results. Current and past videos can be found at a website set up just for them - http://

MusicMinute.blogspot.com. Visit and see how amazing, moving, and fun music can be!

Keep singing, everybody! Mrs. Siobhan Leonard September 16, 2013

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Manchester Public Schools believes that all children can and must learn well. To do this we are using the State of Connecticut's Framework for Scientific Research Based Intervention (**SRBI**). This **SRBI** Framework provides tiered instruction for students who may struggle.

In short, intervention means that your child may need additional materials or strategies in order to be successful. We know that all children learn in different ways and at different rates. By offering different strategies, we can help all children be successful.

The first level (Tier I) is the general classroom, where we provide instruction and progress monitoring to help the majority of our students to succeed.

For students who may still struggle, Tier II (small group targeted instruction), or even Tier III (specialized instruction) interventions can be provided.

At each intervention level, there are different strategies and materials used to try to meet the needs of all learners. At times schedule changes are necessary in order to provide appropriate intervention time for your child. Parent communication is an important part of the SRBI process, and you will be notified of your child's progress.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the tiered interventions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We believe that we have the responsibility to help **ALL** children to be successful, and we will continue to do that one child at a time.

Sincerely,

Building Principal



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Café Time

Hi from the Cafeteria!

Well, we all made it through our first month of the school year. I got a chance to meet many of our students' parents/guardians at our Open House, and I got to meet many families at the P.T.A. cookout.

Many of our students are doing great with their ID#. We can tell that many of our newer students have been practicing their ID# at home. Thank you to all the older brothers, sisters and parents/guardians who took the time to help our younger students practice.

I do have some very important reminders. Our first reminder is to use **First and Last Names** of students on their envelopes. No nicknames, please. **ID#** is a big help too. We had a couple of issues the first week or so, but we got them worked out. This information makes it so much easier for all of us. Please, please <u>make sure the envelopes are sealed</u>. Loose change has a way of getting lost.

Another important reminder is about making sure to fill out a new and completed application (if applicable) for Free or Reduced Meals. All Manchester Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program, as was stated in last month's newsletter. This application has to be completed every school year. If you have any questions about your application, please call the Office of Food and Nutrition, (860-647-3462). Remember this is for meals only. If your child would like any extras, such as cereal or a muffin at breakfast, or extra fruit, protein, etc., they will need money on account, or money in hand for any extras. Any student with "Meals Only" noted on their account will need money in hand for any extras they would like. We are asking parents to discuss with your child about spending money on extras. We are not here to monitor any student's account.

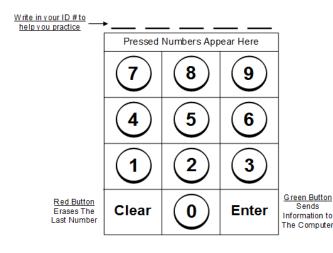
EZSchoolPay.com: The Office of Food and Nutrition offers an online meal payment service. This is a program where parents/guardians can go online to make payments to their child's/children's account using a MasterCard or Visa credit card. This is a secure system that many parents/guardians have used. This is also a great way to check your child's account.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to stop by or call us at 647-3306. We are available from 8:00 am -10:30 am or after lunch is served, from 1:45 pm -2:15 pm. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 647-3462. The office is open from 8 am -4:00 pm every school day.

Please note: If you want to stop by the kitchen you need to go to the school office and get a visitor's pass. We are all working to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dale Schuetz Cafeteria Manager



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September 24, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardians,

In an effort to provide a smooth and safe pick up and drop off at Buckley, I am providing this letter to assist all families.

If possible, I encourage, families whose child(ren) is in grades 3-5, please utilize the back parking lot via Barry Road for both drop-offs and pick-ups. We have had work completed in the back parking lot and this is an ideal location for our older students. Please note that we will have staff during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Please follow the protocol outlined below:

- If you are using the back parking lot to drop-off and pick-up your child, please park on the right hand side. When entering the parking lot, please pull all the way down. After picking up your child, please follow the parking lot and make a loop to turn around and exit the parking lot.
- Also, please watch for children.

If your child is in grades K-2, I am asking that you make every effort to utilize the front of the building for drop- off and pick-up. Again, we will have staff to supervise during the morning and afternoon. With this in mind please remember not to double park your car in the circle during the morning and afternoon. As a friendly reminder, please keep your car moving around the circle if there is not a space available. We do have additional spaces located in the back parking lot. In addition to the above, with respect to the circle, please follow the protocol outlined below:

- If you are using the circle to drop off your child, please park on the right hand side of the circle.
- Please DO NOT stop in the middle of the circle to drop-off your child. This creates a traffic jam and an unsafe situation for our children. <u>Also, please do not park on the inside</u> of the circle
- Please walk your children to and from the building after parking your car.

In our continued effort to provide a structured and safe environment here at Buckley, please first stop by the main office when visiting your child's classroom, volunteering your time or attending an event. Please sign in at the main office and we will provide you with a Visitor Sticker.

Also, if you are picking up your child early or are changing the normal routine with respect to drop-off/pick-up, please write a note to your child's teacher and the main office. This will insure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Daly Principal

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September 30, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians;

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the Enrichment Program in Manchester. While the Enrichment Program has been in place for several years, it will look slightly different this school year.

To begin with, the Enrichment program is for students in grades 3-5. While Mrs. Johnson has traditionally seen a few students in grades K-2, the program is officially for students in grades 3-5. While I understand that this is a major change for Buckley students, please understand that Mrs. Johnson will still be available to all classroom teachers for support, ideas and information to assist our students.

Secondly, in an effort to support all students, Mrs. Johnson will be coordinating a whole school enrichment opportunity throughout the school year. Specifically, Mrs. Johnson will develop a school-wide enrichment bulletin board. This will be an interactive bulletin board that will be set up in a convenient location for all students to access. Mrs. Johnson will be responsible for setting up and maintaining the bulletin board with challenging activities of various abilities and interests so that all students have an equal opportunity to participate. Each level of challenges will be worth points and each class will try to earn the most points during each 5-6 week period of time. The class with the most points will be honorably mentioned and celebrated for their hard work!

I appreciate your continued support for Buckley School and its many programs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly